



## FICTIONAL AND METAPHYSICAL MORAL VALUES IN SUDHA MURTY'S NOVELS

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### ABSTRACT:

The purpose of this paper is to study fictional and metaphysical moral values of Sudha Murty's novel. Metaphysics includes the study of nature of human minds. Metaphysics deals with morality, spirituality, religious aspect and human relationship with world. The metaphysical view is the logical positive thoughts of reality.

In literary work, fiction is very creative in imaginary ways those are not strictly based on history or fact i.e., supernatural, magical or scientifically impossible element. Metaphysics also dealt with abstract objects with the touch of logical and moral thinking.

Sudha Murty's novels are based on fictional and metaphysical moral theme. She incorporates Indian metaphysics and philosophy in her fictional work. Sudha Murty is a spirit for Indian as well as world's audience who love the Indian literature. She has published many books which shows her self-realization thoughts, fictional and metaphysical themes. The author focuses on the moral and spiritual aspect in her novels. And storytelling is the best way to teach moral and ethical values. Here I mentioned two story books those are How Sea became Salty and Why Onion got its layers.

Sudha murty's writing style is same like that of Sane Guruji which include storytelling, an art of the sake of art through writers express all of their experiences and thoughts about society. Their writing is cherished by all adults as well as children and inspiring the youth to achieve their goals. Morality involves something akin to fiction.

Number of studies on storytelling and story reading on the effects of developing moral value and ethics are explored. The educational value of storytelling and story reading is widely accepted.

According to Snow (1983), reading story books and share stories with children is the most studied format for language learning.

Burner (1986), agrees that the storytelling and using the stories is the effective way to transform moral experiences to moral knowledge.

**Key words:** - *Metaphysics, Fiction, Magical, Dwarves, Thankful, Joyful, Blessings, Punishment.*

### INTRODUCTION:

Sudha Murty is prolific Indian writer; her writing is considered milestone of literature. Murty's novels deals with the education, religious task, cultural aspects, family relationship, social attitude, economic situation, as such being prolific writer, she relates all aspect of society.

Women have always been a source of motivation and a catalyst for social change, one such name is Sudha Murty who made prominent impact on Indian society. A writer, philanthropist, entrepreneur, facilitating the education of poor children and for being one of the brain behind the Infosys Infrastructure Company. She is first female engineer of India.

Sudha Murty was born on 19th August 1950 in Siggon, Haveri, Karnataka, India. She completed M. Engg. in computer science from the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, India. Sudha Murty's Infosys foundation is public charitable trust found in 1996. Sudha Murty became first female engineer hired at India's largest auto manufacturer TATA Engineering and Locomotive Company (TELCO). She awarded India's fourth highest civilization award Padmashri in 2006. She also received R. K. Narayan award for literature in 2006.

Writer's novels aim to search for spiritual truth and significant contribution to Indian English literature as well as world's literature as whole.

**REVIEW OF LITERATURE:**

According to the theory of Immanuel Kant, Groundwork of the metaphysics of morals, his logically planned out vision helped to launch a philosophical journey that set the stage for a new way of considering the moral construct. The groundwork is divided into three sections.

**Section One:** Kant begins with the idea that one must first establish a basic understanding of how to think morally. He calls this common rational moral cognition. From there, Kant works from this established common understanding to one that is philosophical in nature, which he calls philosophical moral cognition. This is a way of looking at moral action based on three propositions:

1. Something is moral only if it is done out of duty.
2. Good moral action is based on the principle and not the aim or object of the action.
3. Moral actions must be done because of one's respect for the law.

**Section Two:** Kant discussed about metaphysics of morality. He begins with the assertion that moral discussion must be made solely based on reason because any moral decision based on anything other than reason. This leads to Kant's establishment of Categorical Imperative (CI). This is the area of Kant's metaphysics of moral where duty plays a large role. Kant uses maxims or general truth or principles, to guide his thoughts concerning duty, bond, moral decision. He defines the CI as an accordance with that maxim that can add the same time make itself into universal law. Thus, one must, under this line of reasoning, make decision from a stand point of pure objectivity and duty.

**Section Three:** In the final section, Kant first attempts to draw together the lines of reasoning by discussing the harmony or freedom and morality. He makes the point that morality is the same as freedom of action.

**Fiction and Metaphysical moral in the book  
How the Sea became Salty:**

A story of a long time ago, when the sea water was supposedly sweet and indeed drinkable. The book *How the Sea became Salty* is a fictional story of magic and wonder and create interest for very young readers. As a writer Sudha Murty has taken her readers on many such imaginative voyage. Shridhar was a protagonist of the said story. He was an orphan, he lived with his brother Keshav and his sister in laws Leela. Leela was selfish and jealous. She didn't like that Shridhar lived with them. She even not gave him enough to eat, made him work very hard and used to find many ways to trouble him. Keshav could never courage to stop his wife from treating his brother so badly. One day Leela sent Shridhar in forest for want of fire wood. He came to home with a bundle of wood but did one mistake that the axe was left in the forest. Leela sent him back to forest for searching the axe. At that time Shridhar met dwarves and help them, by keeping fire burn in throughout the night, so that dwarves could celebrate overnight, as a reward of his help dwarves gifted him a magical hand fan and told him that whenever he wishes for something he had to just wave the fan gently and ask for it. When he had got enough, whisper, "enough, enough, enough," and it would stop producing the object.

With the help that fan Shridhar became a wealthy man. Leela and Keshav heard about Shridhar and visited him and asked about the secret of his success. He told about the fan and greedy Leela decided to steal the fan at night when Shridhar had sleep. Leela and Keshav stolen the fan and tried to run far away from that place. They reached a harbor, a big ship was about to leave, they started their journey. Next day cook in the ship complained to captain that there is no salt in the kitchen, captain asked Keshav and Leela for salt because they had already introduced themselves as the salt

merchant. Then Leela went to the corner of the ship and waved the fan and whispered “Give us salt”. Immediately a sack full salt started falling from sky, but did not stop as she didn’t know how to stop the fan and the sea remained salty forever.

This fictional story is full of entertainment with moral touch, that is “Be thankful for what you have”. Writer is successful to create metaphysical environment through her fictional work. According to Baker and Green (1977) storytelling is not the presentation of the memorized script but rather as an interaction between teller and listener.

### **Fiction and Metaphysical moral in the book Why Onion got its layers :**

Have you noticed how the onion has so many layers? And have you seen your mother’s eyes water, when she cut an onion? Here is remarkable story to tell you why. Long-long ago a king and queen lived in Ulhasnagar. Ulhas means a joy, as such everyone was happy there but king and queen were sad because they didn’t have child. They went to forest for the worship of forest Goddess for the want of child. Forest Goddess pleased and promised to give them a beautiful baby girl with the condition that girl will be extremely fond of new dresses, they have to provide her. The king and queen accepted the condition and the forest Goddess blessed them with a baby girl and then they returned the palace. They named the child ‘Beena’. She was beautiful and happy girl; everyone was happy with her because she had good manners and respect. But as she wanted new dress every day, her parents provided her all-possible dresses. After some time, they thought that it was unnecessary and they were spending so much money for the same. As such King suggested Beena to go to forest and pray the Forest Goddess and ask her for solution. She was very obedient; she understood her parents and went to forest for finding solution. She prayed the Goddess and Goddess blessed

her and said her that “I will give you a new dress on your bed in every morning” but condition that she had to wear those dresses and can’t exchange with anybody, if she did that the Goddess would punish her. Beena was thankful and happy to wear those unique dresses that Goddess provided her. One day she saw a girl wearing beautiful pink cotton saree, everyone was appreciating her. She thought that she should wear the same saree and she asked her to exchange their dresses. That girl happily went to change and gave her saree to Beena. As the promise was broken by Beena, she faced the anger of forest Goddess and as punishment she was taken away from all her beloved and never sent her back. Beena was full of regret, immediately with a tearful eye, she was thinking that how sad would be her parents and peoples of kingdom. ‘Without thinking what a blunder she had committed’. Beena agreed and was ready for punishment, but she requested to Goddess that to turn her into something that is always remain with her parents and all the peoples in the kingdom as they will always remember her. And to make her, someone always use as she will be always useful to them. The Goddess turned Beena in to a plant of onion, onion is used by everyone. The color of onion is pink that was of Saree wore by Beena, when she broken the promise and all the layers of onion is like dresses of Beena, which she was changing every single day. The tearful eye while cutting onion represents the eyes of beautiful princess who became sad while going away from her beloved and peoples of kingdom and that day onion got its layers.

So many things are learned by this story i.e., the metaphysical qualities are the fictional work i.e., if we are happy, polite, respectful, joyful then everyone remains happy around us. Another is being kind to others is very important. And the most important lesson is that we must never act in without thinking. According to Tappan and Brown (1989) stories

as an approach to develop and from moral sensitivity among children is slowly dying in our modern education system.

**CONCLUSION :**

Storytelling brings language learning alive and creates a participatory and immersive experience. The stories include fictional characters which carries the metaphysical values like kindness, wisdom, honesty, compassion and more. The morality of life experiences and ethical behavior is beautifully painted through the stories. Stories are a memorable ways to communicate knowledge.

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